Billy Wilder's **MARCHÉ AUX PUCES**

Billy Wilder **KINDERSPIEL**

An Appreciation

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS WOULD I HAVE EVER IMAGINED, WHILE WATCHING *STALAG 17* AS A BOY, IN A MOVIE THEATER IN CASABLANCA, THAT I WOULD ONE DAY MEET BILLY WILDER; NOT TO MENTION THE RARE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK TOGETHER ON A VISUAL ADVENTURE. I MET BILLY ABOUT EIGHT YEARS AGO AND DISCOVERED THAT WE SHARE MANY COMMON INTERESTS, WE QUICKLY BECAME FRIENDS. TWO YEARS AGO, I APPROACHED BILLY WITH THE IDEA OF CURATING AN EXHIBITION. I PROMISED HIM THAT IT WOULD BE MORE FUN THAN BUSINESS. HE SAID, "OK, LET'S HAVE SOME FUN." – LOUIS STERN

15 December 1993 through 31 January 1994

LOUIS STERN 9528 BRIGHTON WAY BEVERLY HILLS CALIFORNIA 90210

cover: Billy Wilder / Bruce Houston VARIATIONS ON THE THEME OF QUEEN NEFERTETE I

A pack rat - or as we professionals call it, *Neotoma cinerea* - is a person who collects, saves or hoards useless items. I wouldn't be surprised if there were as many pack rats as there are rats.

I myself started at the age of three. First, it was pebbles, then buttons, then stamps and coins. Those are more often than not the first symptoms. The very rich wind up with a mansion full of Mesopotamic sculpture, while others are still buying parts of the old Berlin Wall. Someone I used to know died with a cellar full of photographs of graffiti taken in every toilet in Newark.

I lived a cleaner life. There were posters, lithos, watercolors, oils, marble, and bronzes. I went from buttons to Boteros. It took me sixty years. Vienna, Berlin, Paris, New York, L.A. Then one night, in the Summer of '89, while making my way to the can, I stumbled over a Henry Moore bronze and right smack into a de Staël oil.

While they were applying a splint to my big toe, I decided right then and there to get rid of everything I had. Everything absolutely unnecessary. That also included a napkin from Maxim's of Paris with Picasso's signature. I wanted to start a tidy, unrumpled, disciplined life, more like a Jesuit in a grim cell without a postcard on the barren walls and no window to let the sun in. I made up my mind to sell the whole caboodle. Wash my hands of all that craziness, be a normal Mensch. You want *Art* - go to a museum. Want to be an *Art*

Expert, buy a book. Better yet - go to a library. No more possessions. Basta!

The auction at Christie's in New York brought in an astonishing bundle of the Green. My craziness paid off. Great! But I am not going to stick my neck out again! No Siree!

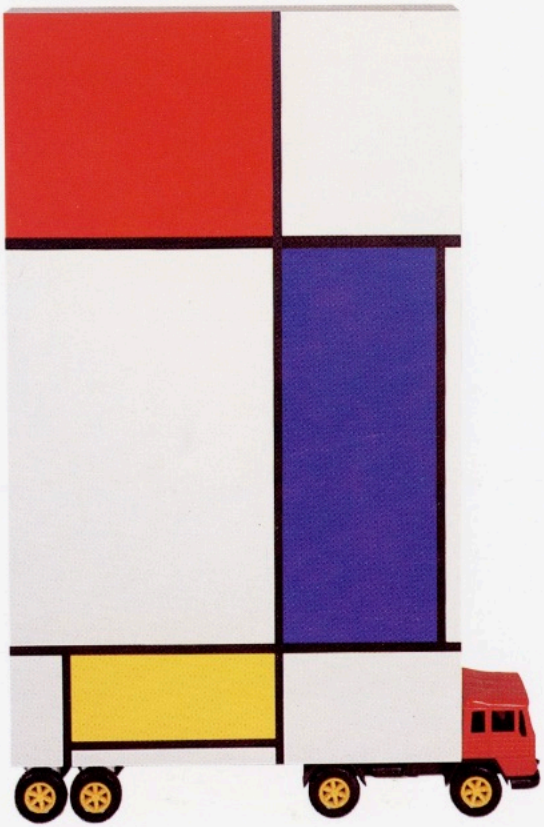
Well, what can I tell you - two months later I fell off the wagon. This time, it took me no time at all with all that experience of mine. Crates were arriving, doors were being widened so that sculptures could be wheeled in. A big Calder had to be craned in. It was downright chaotic especially since my wife was packing her Vuittons, ready to leave me.

To keep my wife, to get some sleep, to resume my real profession, I decided to have a second sale. Not on the scale of the previous pageant, but with more punch and pizzaz.

I have worked on my own but mostly in collaboration. My great luck was running into Bruce Houston, an exceptional artist, with an odd sense of humor. We clicked. The instant we came up with the Nefertete concept we danced for joy. We knew we were on to something.

So that there will be no misunderstanding: I can neither draw, nor paint, nor sculpt. But sometimes I have ideas. Some are good ones, some are very good ones. You might feel like giggling, chuckling, or snickering, or just smirking. You may sort of admire a piece or two - you may be baffled by others but you will not be bored, I guarantee that. So come on in and bring your money. —**B.W.**

Billy Wilder / Bruce Houston **VARIATIONS ON THE THEME OF QUEEN NEFERTETE II**

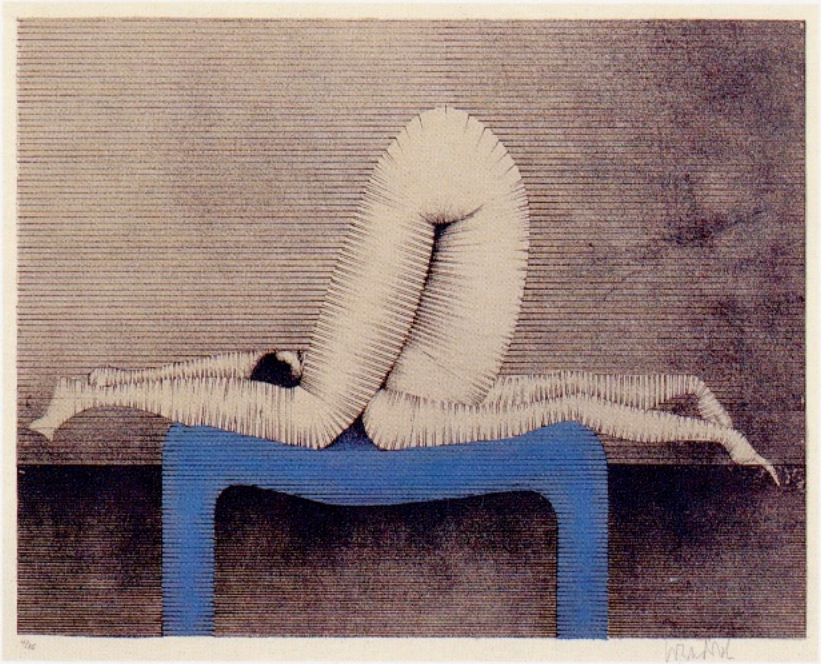


Bruce Houston **A MONDRIAN TRUCK**

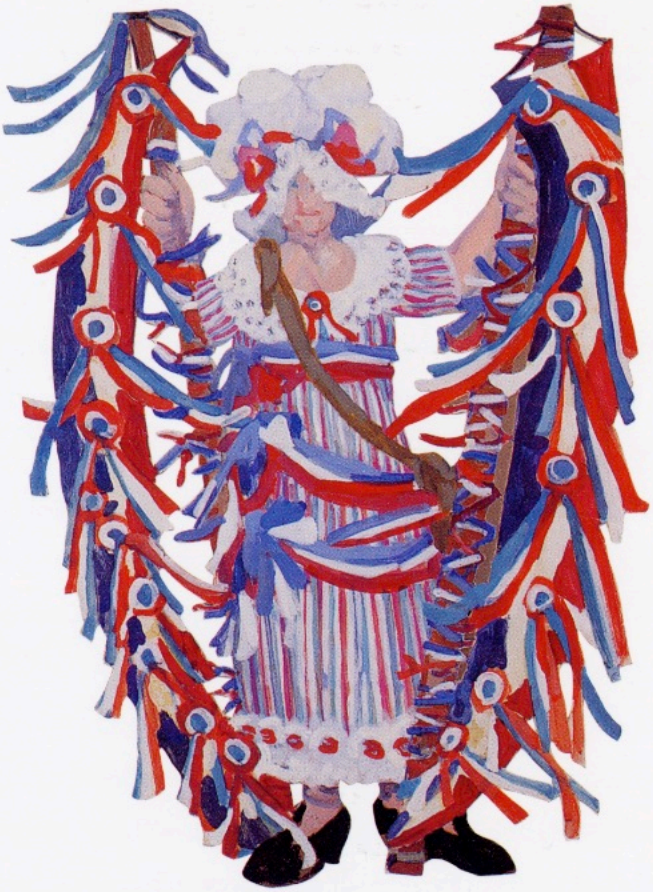
Fernando Botero **HORSE**

Charles Lapicque LE CLEUZIAT

African Tribal Art **CIRCUMCISION MASK**



Paul Wunderlich **POSITION A**



Zuka **LA VENDEUSE DES COCARDES**

FERNANDO BOTERO

MARC CHAGALL

CASTRO CID

CHARLES EAMES

DAVID HOCKNEY

BRUCE HOUSTON

ELLSWORTH KELLY

JIRI KOLAR

JEAN LAMBERT-RUCKI

CHARLES LAPICQUE

LE CORBUSIER

RICHARD LINDNER

ALAN MAGEE

BEN NICHOLSON

PABLO PICASSO

GEORGES ROUAULT

ANTONIO SEGUI

SAUL STEINBERG

WALASSE TING

MAURICE UTRILLO

BILLY WILDER

PAUL WUNDERLICH

ZUKA

LOUIS STERN REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY

TO TOAST BILLY WILDER

IN CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING OF HIS *MARCHÉ AUX PUCES*

TUESDAY 14 DECEMBER 1993 6:30PM - 8:30PM

MARCHÉ AUX PUCES WILL OPEN ON 15 DECEMBER 1993

AND WILL BE ON VIEW UNTIL 31 JANUARY 1994

THIS INVITATION IS NON-TRANSFERABLE

R.S.V.P. 310 276-0147 VALET PARKING

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